HARLES by the grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. TO all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting. WHEREAS the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, now assembled in Parliament vpon the sixt day of this instant moneth of *August*, entring into a due and Christian consideration of the Wants and Extremities, which many poore people inhabiting in or neere the Cities and Suburbs of *London* and *Westminster* doe vndergoe by reason of the grieuous visitation of the Plague, and the want of necessarie reliefe; made an order, the tenor whereof followeth in these words, *viz.* In Parliament, *Oxon. 6.* of *August*, *Anno primo Regis Caroli*. The Lords hauing this day taken into their charitable consideration the lamentable distresse of the poore people, Inhabiting in the Cities and Suburbs of *London* and *Westminster*, and in the Out-parishes adjoyning, and in the Parish of *Stepney*, who in this time of the great contagion of the Plague now rageing in those parts, are lesse subject to good orders, being left destitute of conuenient relieue, in respect that the rich and able Citizens, and other Inhabitants of all sorts, being departed thence for auoiding the infection, haue not taken sufficient order, for relieue of the poore people remaining behinde, haue thought fit, and doe now order, aduise, and direct, that ouer and besides all prouision already made, there be this further added for their better relieue, *viz.* That all persons taxed or taxable in the limits and places aforesaid, either for houses, lands, goods, or otherwise towards the relieue of the poore, being not so impouerished themselues by this visitation as they shall be forborne to be taxed, shall by the proper Officers be taxed to beare a double proportion of taxe at the least, during the time of this Visitation, and more if it shall be found requisite by the Magistrates, Iustices of Peace, or other Officers there abiding for the time: And after notice giuen to any person so taxed, or left at his house, whersoeuer he shall be remaining, he is hereby ordered to make due paiment, weekely, or monethly as shall be required: And because it is conceiued, that very many are remooued so farre from *London*, as that notice cannot be conueniently giuen with such speed as may presently supply the necessitie of the poore; Their Lordships doe desire the Chamber, or Bridge-house of *London*, to lend and disburse a thousand pounds at the least for this purpose. And it is ordered that they, or any charitable and able Inhabitants, laying out that summe, or any farther summes which shall be wanting, shall be surely repayed whatsoeuer they shall disburse, out of the summe so taxed, so soone as they may be leuied, and out of a generall Collection which His Majestie at their Lordships humble suite, hath to recommend throughout the whole Kingdome for the relieue of the said Poore: Wherein their Lordships now assembled, will themselues set an example for incouragement of others. And to the intent, that the Moneys to be raised by way of taxation (as is first aboue-mentioned) may be the more truely and speedily leuied, their Lordships during the time while they shall sit, will be pleased to take knowledge of all Complaints against such as shall refuse to pay the said Taxation, and to punish them so exemplarily, as shall be a terrour to others. And they doe further order, that after the sitting shall end, the Lords of His Majesties Priuie Councell vpon complaint to them, and the Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of *England* vpon complaint to him, shall doe the like. And their Lordships hauing been informed of the good and charitable course helde by some Companies and others within the City, in forbearing the Companies and Hall-dinners, and turning them vnto the relieue of the poore, doe highly commend those that haue so done; and doe wish their example may be followed by the Lord Major, Sheriffes, and all the rest, as a thing much pleasing to God, and agreeable to the time. *Exam. H. Elsing: Cler. Parliament.* AND WHEREAS the said Lords haue freely of themselues payed downe presently euery of them aboue the state of a Baron, forty shillings apiece, and euery other of the state of a Baron, being Spirituall or Temporall Lords, twentie shillings into the hands of the right Reuerend Father in God, *George* Lord Bishop of *London*, to be disposed of as the rest of the Moneys to be collected for the vse aboue-mentioned:

KNOW YE therefore that We also aboue all other, most grieued at the pitifull and wofull estate of our said poore Subiects, and much commiserating the same, and much reioycing in the forwardnesse of our said Lords, towards the performance of so Christian and charitable an action, whose good example wee earnestly desire that all other our louing Subiects of qualitie would follow in this behalfe, according to their degrees; Of our Princely Grace, doe ratifie and much approoue their said Order so set downe: And in confirmation, and for the execution thereof, so grant, that according to the said Order, Collection may be made of the charitable deuotion and liberalitie of all our louing Subiects, throughout our Realme of *England*, & Dominion of *Wales*, in all places whatsoeuer, towards the relieue of our said poore Subiects, to be executed in maner and forme following. That is to say, We will, grant, appoint, and require, That *Arthur Ducke* Doctour of Law, Chancellour, and *Robert Christian* Esquire, Principall Register to the said Bishop of *London*, or his, or their Deputy or Deputies, named and appointed by him or them, in writing vnder his, or their hands and seales, shall and may procure to be printed so many Briefes of these our Letters Patents, as may suffise for the accomplishing and performance of this good Worke: And shall cary and shew these our Letters Patents to the said Lord Bishop of *London*, and shall also leaue with his Lordship so many of these printed Briefes, as there are Churches or Chappels wherein diuine Seruice is vsually said, within his Dioceese of *London*. And shall send to euery other Archbishop and Bishop, so many of the said Briefes, as may serue to be dispersed within their seuerall Dioceeses.

AND We also require the Lords Archbishops of *Canterbury* and *Yorke*, and all and euery Lord Bishop within this our Realme of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*, to receiue so many of the said Brieses, as may serue to be dispersed within their seuerall Dioceeses, the said Briefes to be sent by the Archbishops and Bishops to the Minister and Curate of euery Parish Church or Chappell within their seuerall Dioceeses. And Wee also will and require euery Minister and Curate of any Church or Chappell, to whom such printed Briefes shall be deliuered, that without any long delay vpon some Sunday or Holy-day, when the Parishioners be fully assembled to heare diuine Seruice, they publikely declare in their seuerall Church or Chappell, vnto the Congregation there assembled, the tenure of these Briefes, with an especiall exhortation to them, to yeeld their liberall and extraordinarie contribution to so charitable a worke. And wee also will and require, you the Churchwardens and ouerseers of the poore, to make diligent collection of the charitable deuotion of the people in the said Church or Chappell so assembled: And that after collection so made, they doe publikely declare in the Church, the whole summe of money so by them collected; and then procure the same summe to be set downe vpon the backeside of the Briefe vnder their owne hand, and the hand of the Minister of the said Church or Chappell: And then the said Churchwardens or Ouerseers, or one of them, after the receipt of the said money collected, shall deliuer the summe collected, with the said Briefe, vnto such Minister of the Deanery where the said collection shall be made, as the Lord Bishop of the Dioceese shall assigne and appoint to receiue the same: And the Bishop of euery Dioceese is hereby authorized, to name and appoint a Minister in euery Deanery to receiue the said collections accordingly. And Wee also require the said Minister which shall be so appointed, to receiue the said money from the said Ouerseers, that he receiue the same, with the aforesaid Briefe: And that within ten dayes after the receipt thereof, he pay and deliuer the same, with the Briefe whereby the same hath beene collected, vnto the Lord Bishop of the Dioceese, where such collection is made. And wee also require, the Archbishops and Bishops of euery Dioceese respectiuely, that they require of the said Minister the said money, with the Briefe whereby the same hath beene collected, and deliuer ouer all the said collections, made within their seuerall and respectiue Dioceeses, with the aforesaid Briefes, to the said Bishop of *London* or his Deputies, all the said money to be disposed of, by the said Lord Bishop of *London*, with the aduice of any two or more Lords of Parliament, to the satisfaction of the money to be deposited, and laide out, according to the said order, and to the relieue of the poore and distressed people in the said Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and in the Parishes and places adjacent and neere thereunto, in the Counties of *Middlesex* and *Surrey*, where it is and shall be most needfull: And therein Wee will the Out-parishes, as being most subiect to pouertie, infection, and necessitie, be specially regarded: Any Statute, Law, Ordinance or Prouision, heretofore made to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding.

IN WITNES whereof, Wee haue caused these Our Letters to be made Patents for the space of one whole yeere, next after the date hereof to endure. WITNES Our Selfe at Our City of Oxford, the eleuenth day of August, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

Steward.

God saue the King.

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